



CHARITABLE HEALTHCARE NETWORK

Ohio: Stronger. Healthier. Together.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL DOCTOR RECOGNIZED AS 2020 FREE CLINIC COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AT OHIO FREE CLINIC APPRECIATION AWARDS

Columbus, OH –12/9/2020 – Hope Clinic of Ross County, along with free clinics across Ohio, is celebrating the Sixth Annual Free Clinic Appreciation Month. With the passage of House Bill 320 in 2014, the Ohio Legislature designated December as Free Clinic Appreciation Month. On Wednesday's virtual celebration, Dr. Jennifer Allen was recognized as Ohio's 2020 Free Clinic Community Volunteer of the Year.

"Our clinic fills a critical need for health care services, particularly for hard-working adults struggling to make ends meet," said Jami Easterday. "Free Clinic Appreciation Month gives us an opportunity to welcome members of our community into our clinic to share the progress we've made and the services we provide."

In 2019, Ohio's free clinics provided more than 150,000 visits to over 55,000 patients, with volunteer physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals providing nearly 180,000 hours of care to those who have fallen through the cracks of our healthcare system in Ohio. Ohio's free clinics are on track to obtain similar service hours amidst the pandemic.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, 31 of Charitable Healthcare Network's 52 clinics remained open to provide medical services in a time when their communities needed them most. Hope Clinic of Ross County was able to expand and adapt their services to continue serving their local community while upholding the safety of their staff and patients.

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"While the ACA and Medicaid Expansion has helped thousands of Ohioans obtain health insurance, gaps still remain," said Deb Miller, Executive Director of the Charitable Healthcare Network. "The pandemic has made the need for our clinics stronger than ever as unemployment and uninsured rates remain high. We are especially excited for the opportunity in 2020 to recognize the work Ohio's clinics are doing to address those gaps."

To learn more about Ohio Free Clinic Appreciation Month, please contact Sydney Hatch (shatch@charitablehealth.org), visit our website www.charitablehealth.org or follow us on Twitter [@CHNetwork](https://twitter.com/CHNetwork), use #ohiofreeclinics and #OhioStrongerHealthierTogether

To share our social media posts about Dr. Allen, follow these links to our Twitter and Facebook.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/CHNetwork/status/1334618418218115072?s=20>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CharitableHealthcareNetwork/posts/4177852635582345>

About Dr. Jennifer Allen from Hope Clinic of Ross County.

Dr. Jennifer Allen practiced pediatrics from 1980-2008 in Chillicothe, Ohio. In 2008 she had to have a heart transplant and was not able to return to the pediatric practice she loved. But God provided her a reassignment in 2011. She was asked by her cardiac rehab nurse to join in a committee to develop a free faith based health care clinic. That nurse, Jami Easterday, has been the clinical director of the clinic since the doors were open in 2012. Although not practicing pediatrics, Dr. Allen has worn many different hats for Hope Clinic and now serves as the board president. She is very grateful for this opportunity to serve God and her community. Jennifer grew up in Waverly, Ohio. She now resides in Chillicothe with her husband, Alan Davis.



About Charitable Healthcare Network.

Charitable Healthcare Network (CHN), formerly the Ohio Association of Free Clinics, advocates on behalf of Ohio's free clinics and the people they serve. We do not provide direct health care services on-site, but support those clinics that do. Free clinic services vary, but may include: primary care, prescription assistance, dental, vision, behavioral health and other specialties. With the recent impacts of COVID-19, the number of unemployed and uninsured/under-insured citizens is skyrocketing like never before. Using cost-effective strategies, such as in-kind services, building partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and donations of health care resources and time, we are able to support free clinics so they can provide for the health care needs of their patients. These strategies mean that every dollar invested in free clinics brings nearly \$6.45 in care for patients.

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